



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## **Council on Aging Minutes 06/21/2001**

### **MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2001 COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING**

**Members Present:** Harry McCabe, Mary Dodge, Hannah Simon, Richard Murray, Shirley Chapski, Dottie Nicholas, Phil Mercandetti

**Members Absent:** Mildred Hurd

**Others Present:** John Jope (COA Executive Director), Maureen Jackson (COA Secretary)

**Quorum Identification/Call to Order:** Richard Murray, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.  
 A quorum of 6 was present

**Minutes of May 17 Council Meeting:** It was MSV to accept the minutes as written.

**Public Forum:** Roland Chaput thanked the Council for their support of the Symmes Project question on the ballot, which passed two to one in favor. He also gave an update on what was now going on as far as the Symmes property was concerned.

**Summer recess of July & August Council meetings:** Phil moved to recess the Council meetings for July and August. Mary seconded the motion. Vote was in favor, with one (Harry McCabe) opposed.

**Senior Center sign:** John reported Alan McClennen has agreed to pay for the Senior Center sign. John will meet with Rich Bento to discuss design and installation.

**Harry Barber Memorial Garden sign:** John reported planting has been started in the crescent shaped area in front of the Senior Center by members of the Garden Club and Jackie Keshian. Two barrels filled with annuals and herbs are also out in front. Space has been left in the middle edge near the driveway to place a plaque or stone in memory of Harry Barber. Harry McCabe suggested a granite stone with a nice plaque on it in bronze or something along that idea and that it would be displayed in a prominent place in the garden. John reported that this request has to go through the selectmen to the Permanent Memorial Committee. A letter will be sent to the selectmen regarding the Memorial Garden with an appropriate marker or plaque. If the Permanent Memorial Committee approves, we can go ahead with our plans.

**Gift Fund:** (tabled until September meeting)

### **REPORTS**

**Executive Directors report:** John reported he has had a good response to the Harry Barber Community Service Program. He stated he fills the slots first with those who strictly follow the guidelines, then, if there arent any more applicants he will take those from subsidized housing. John will send the application form in the next package to the Council. John also reported that June 29 would be Jackie Keshians last day on the job. On Thursday, June 28 at noon there will be a small staff luncheon for Jackie. Her husband and daughter have been invited to attend also. Kathy McMahon will come around 12:45 to present to Jackie the gift from the Council members. John also reported

that our new hours will be 8-4 on a trial basis for one year. It would not be in the best interest of our clients to stay open till 7 PM on Thursdays and close at noon on Fridays.

**Finance Committee:** Richard reported the Finance Committee hadnt met, but that he had a brief meeting with John earlier this evening. John reported Municipal funds are in good shape. COA will have spent every dollar in Elder Affairs at the end of the fiscal year, but will not end up in the red. Transportation Fund had a balance of \$84,820 as of May 31. Gift Fund has remained stable over the years. We have about \$34,000 in the Gift Fund now and \$32,000 in December 1999. Subsidy Funds are getting down. Sanborn has about \$13,000 with half encumbered, however the Chairman of the Sanborn Foundation Board of Trustees said if we needed more funds, there shouldnt be any problem. Sevoyan Bequest ledger balance up a little.

**Sevoyan Bequest Committee:** Harry McCabe moved to recess the Council and sit as the Sevoyan Bequest Committee. Mary Dodge seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor. During the Sevoyan Bequest Committee meeting, Harry McCabe moved to appoint Hannah Simon as the new Chairperson, Mary Dodge seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor. Harry will check with John Bilafer to see if a Sevoyan Scholarship was given out this year. Richard then moved to adjourn the Sevoyan Bequest Committee meeting and return to the Council meeting. Mary seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor.

**Transportation Group:** John reported that Phil Mercandetti, himself and Lynne McCluskey had met the previous week and reviewed the progress that Dottie and himself had made by meeting with the purchasing agent of the Town. The meeting with the purchasing agent had been very positive and got the okay to start pre-bid meetings with the vendors. Dottie reported she is looking at the states list of vendors on the COMPASS website. She said she is not sure if the Town is approved to go in with the state. Harry suggested first talking to the Selectmen and find out if they will give an outside low bidder a license to operate in Arlington.

**Needs Assessment Committee:** Mary reported she has sent a letter to John with the final account of the survey. #1 Results will be inserted in the Newsletter. The COA will take care of the health and wellness, tax problems and programs of the seniors. ASA will take care of the social needs of the seniors. Taxi problems will be taken care of by the new Dial-A-Ride contract. Mary will send a final copy to Irene and Diana. She is giving Richard and John a copy tonight also. Richard dissolved the Needs Assessment Committee and thanked Mary for her effort.

**Assisted Living/Housing Options Task Force:** Harry reported he attended the Symmes Advisory committee meeting and that Charlie Foscett is the Chairperson. At the meeting members received a copy of the selectmens vote published prior to the election, and Alan McClennen reviewed the history of Symmes from 1740 up until now. Charlie Foscett will try to put together a list of questions he feels needs to be answered that will become the basis to start going forward. Next meeting will be June 27 at 7 PM. Harry will try to get the Senior Center for the meeting.

**Minuteman Senior Services:** John mentioned in the Council package there was a letter about their 4-year area plan. There will be a meeting at the Hauser Building at 37 Drake Road, on Monday, June 25 at 11 AM to discuss the results of their survey. John will attend and also encouraged Council members to go if they have the time.

Hannah made the motion to complain to Elder Affairs if Minuteman Senior Services does not give the Council on Aging a copy of their four-year area plan on Friday. Phil seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor.

**COA representative to ASA:** In Mildreds absence, Harry reported the ASA had confirmed Alex Moschellas appointment to the Symmes Advisory Committee.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Hannah made a motion to receive the correspondence. Dottie seconded the motion.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Harry McCabe discussed the problem of outreach for isolated seniors. This came about after two senior citizens were found dead in their apartment and had possibly been there for three weeks. John will report back in September about establishing some kind of additional outreach program so this doesnt happen in the future.

**Town Day:** Hannah, Richard and Mary will serve on the Town Day Committee.

**Confirmation of Alex Moschella to the Symmes Advisory Committee:** Richard asked for a motion to confirm Alex

Moschella to the Symmes Advisory committee. Hannah made the motion. Phil seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor. A letter confirming the appointment will be sent to Charlie Foskett.

**Long Range Planning:**

John reported that strategic planning is a must. The Council on Aging needs goals. Harry, Mary and Hannah volunteered to look into setting up a process for long-range planning.

Mary made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting. Hannah seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM

**The next meeting will be Thursday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m.**

Council Secretary \_\_\_\_\_